

# North Carolina Child Nutrition Weekly Update



Week of January 21-25, 2013

Issue No. 2013.1-2

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## Reduced Price Breakfast Funding - UPDATE

The state agency is pleased to announce that all modifications required to the Child Nutrition Technology System to provide reimbursement for the reduced price breakfast served have been completed and tested. The modifications should be placed into production by Friday, January 25, 2013 and at that time, detailed instructions on entering revised claims will be provided.

The SY 2012-2013 Reduced Price Breakfast Allocation is being provided with this update. The total appropriation of \$2,017,761.00 will allow a funding percentage of 41.1469%. The allocation was based on the number of approved reduced students reported by the SFA on the 2011-12 Verification Summary report.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Johnson at [janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-807-4043.

(1) attachment: **2012-13 allocation-reduced priced meals.xls**

## Meal Pattern Flexibility – Meat/Meat Alternate and Grain Maximums (SP 11-2013 Revised)

In December 2012 USDA issued revised guidance regarding Flexibility in the Meat/meat Alternate and Grain Maximums requirements for the 12-13 school year.

In response to feedback from SFA's, State Agencies, and other interested parties, USDA Food and Nutrition Service is offering a more adaptable approach to menu planning for the meat/meat alternate and grain components.

To summarize the main points of the guidance dated 12/20/12:

- There is no change in the requirement for or the method of measuring required DAILY MINIMUM quantities for grains or for meat/meat alternates;
- Menus will be considered compliant with component requirements for grains and meat/meat alternates if the menu is compliant with both DAILY and WEEKLY MINIMUMS regardless of whether they have exceed previously established maximums;
- This flexibility and elimination of the maximums for grains and meat/meat alternates is effective for the 12-13 school year until further guidance is issued;
- This same flexibility will be used in assessing compliance with grains and meat/meat alternate components during Validation Reviews completed during this 12-13 school year;
- USDA does not require states to reconsider or recertify and SFA's already Certified as eligible to receive the 6 cents reimbursement based on previous guidance;
- As SFA's who have not yet been Certified begin to enter documents an data into the Certification Worksheet , it may be that the previously required maximums are exceeded, and the Worksheet will show that by a red block in that column. This is not a problem. SFA's should go ahead and submit the Worksheet. State Agency reviewers are aware of the relaxation of the requirement and will not require corrective action for that issue;
- SFA's that are already Certified using the grain and meat/meat alternate maximums do have the

option to adjust menus to add more grains and/or meat/meat alternates without resubmitting menus for Certification. HOWEVER, keep in mind that calorie ranges are still in effect, as well as saturated fat requirements, and;

- This flexibility does not affect Breakfast meal pattern for the current year, as there are no maximums set in the current breakfast meal pattern. IF a SFA has implemented the new breakfast meal pattern early, the flexibility will be applied to the grains component. As there is no required meat/meat alternate component in the new breakfast meal pattern, the flexibility is not relevant.

Please be sure to attend the upcoming Policy Updates offered. This item will be part of the agenda and any questions regarding this topic can be addressed at that time.

(1) attachment: **sp-11-2013.pdf**

## ***Finance Forum – Child Nutrition Program Update***

Child Nutrition Services was invited to attend the January 2013 Finance Forum that was held in Raleigh on Friday, January 18, 2013. A brief summary of the topics discussed, include the following:

- New Meal Pattern
- 6 Cents Rule
- Meal Price Equity
- Public Notification of Performance
- Competitive Foods
- Professional Standards for School Nutrition Personnel
- State Revenue Match
- Reduced Price Breakfast

The handout provide to the attendees is included with this update.

If you have questions regarding the information shared, please contact Janet Johnson at [janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-807-4043.

(1) attachment: **cn forum update.doc**

## ***Financial Form Update***

The Child Nutrition Technology System is currently being modified to reflect the SY 2012-13 Financial Form (FC1-A) previously provided to the SFAs. The due date for the December 2012 report is March 1, 2013. If the modifications are not completed by this date, the state agency will notify the SFAs with the new submission date. Once the modifications are completed, detailed instructions will be provided to complete and submit the report online.

## ***Verification Summary Report – Due Date Approaching***

The due date to complete the online Verification Summary report is **March 1, 2013**. The Child Nutrition Technology System is open for submission of the report at this time. Please keep in mind that the report may not be finalized until after February 15, 2013 unless all households responded to the verification process completed on November 15, 2012.

## **2013 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference**

On behalf of the No Kid Hungry, NCDPI Child Nutrition Services is pleased to invite Child Nutrition personnel to attend the Child Hunger Leaders Conference on February 20, 2013 in Chapel Hill. This conference is open to leaders and individuals and will be an opportunity to collaborate on ways to feed more children and learn to access federal funding to help fulfill the nutritional needs of hungry children in communities across the state.

If you would like to attend please review the attached invitation for additional details and registration information.

For questions please contact Tamara Baker, Program Manager, No Kid Hungry NC, at [tbaker@strength.org](mailto:tbaker@strength.org), or by phone at 919.933.7650.

(1) attachment: **child hunger leaders conf.pdf**

## **Grant Opportunity – School Gardens**

If your School Food Authority is interested in school gardens, this new grant opportunity may be of interest to you. The NC Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom has launched a new grant program for schools entitled "Going Local." One of the focus areas is school gardens. Grants are available up to \$500. The application and contact info. for Michelle Reedy, Ag in the Classroom Director is here:  
[http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/pdf/AGintheClassroom\\_local.pdf](http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/pdf/AGintheClassroom_local.pdf)

As you consider this opportunity, please also consider the "Best Practices" for School and Community Gardens that was developed for us in NC's public schools. Your local Agricultural Education Teacher can be a tremendous resource for anyone who wishes to successfully and safely manage a school garden.

## **\*\*REMINDER\*\* Onsite and Self-Assessment Reviews**

It's that time again! February 1, 2013 is the deadline for completing your On-site Reviews and Self-Assessments. Every school year each School Food Authority must perform on-site reviews of the meal counting and claiming system employed by each school/site under its jurisdiction. Keep in mind that SFAs may choose to use their own On-Site School Review form or Self-Assessment Form; however, at a minimum the forms must include all of the information that is on the State Agency prototype form and must any non-prototype form must be approved by your Regional Program Consultant.

The prototype On-site review form and Self-Assessment forms are attached for your convenience. It is important to remember that traditional public schools must use the On-Site School Review Form for LEAs and Charters, Non-public/private schools and RCCIs must use the Self-Assessment forms.

If you have questions please contact your Regional Consultant.

(3) attachments:

- **onsite review-lea.doc**
- **self-assess-ch&np.doc**
- **self-assess-rcci.doc**

## ***Team Up for Healthy Learning – February 9***

The North Carolina Action for Healthy Kids (NCAHK) and the North Carolina Parent Teacher Association (NCPTA) are teaming up over the coming months to present a new series of leadership workshops highlighting the benefits of school wellness efforts and coordinated school health programs. The next “Team Up for Healthy Learning” event is scheduled for **February 9** (9 am-3 pm) at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

This event will focus on leadership, health and effective ways to work together on school wellness. Learn about how your school can incorporate physical activity into your school day. Find out how to conduct nutrition taste testing. Hear about opportunities for your school to earn grant funding to support wellness programming. Identify healthy fundraising strategies. Discover what’s happening in school wellness initiatives and hear about some of the coordinated health programs that schools in North Carolina are using and the benefits they’ve reaped from these programs.

These interactive learning events present excellent opportunities for parent leaders, PTA members, teachers, school staff, school administrators, school nurses, Child Nutrition professionals, and community leaders to learn more about how they can support school wellness policies, activities, and events in their local school communities. Bring a friend or another member of your school community, and join us to learn about how you can make a difference this year!

To find out more information or to register for Team Up for Healthy Learning, visit:

<http://ncpta.org/index.php/events/conferences/team-up-for-healthy-learning-at-the-ncpta-emerging-leaders-conference/> .

## ***Celebrate Sweet Potato Month in February***

North Carolina is #1 in sweet potato production and now schools have a chance to be best in class in sweet potato promotion! February is Sweet Potato Month, and the N.C. Sweet Potato Commission is sponsoring a promotion contest for N.C. schools to celebrate.

### **Guidelines:**

- Submit pictures or portfolios of promotional and educational efforts about sweet potatoes that occurred in your school/cafeteria in February.
- All items are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013.
- Send items to Heather Barnes, NCDA&CS, 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1020 or [heather.barnes@ncagr.gov](mailto:heather.barnes@ncagr.gov)

Resources are available on the N.C. Sweet Potato website, [www.ncsweetpotatoes.com](http://www.ncsweetpotatoes.com). Lesson plans, posters and other educational materials are available by emailing [ncsweetsue@aol.com](mailto:ncsweetsue@aol.com). A list of suggested activities is available at [www.ncfarmtoschool.com](http://www.ncfarmtoschool.com)

### Prizes:

Winners will be recognized by the N.C. Sweet Potato Commission and N.C. Farm to School.

- 1st place \$250
- 2nd place \$150
- 3rd place \$100

For more information about the sweet potato promotion or Farm to School, see the attached flyer, activities list and newsletter and/or contact Heather Barnes at [heather.barnes@ncagr.gov](mailto:heather.barnes@ncagr.gov) or 919-707-3127.

### (3) Attachments:

- **nc farm2sch nwsltr.pdf**
- **sweet potato activities.pdf**
- **sweet potato flyer.pdf**

## In the Spotlight! – Johnston County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Selma Elementary School (Johnston County) will be featured on NBC-17 morning news as a "Cool School" on **Wednesday, January 23, 2013** around 6:19 am for the \$60,191 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant we received from the USDA.

"This is a wonderful program that provides our students with fresh fruit and veggie snacks for free during the school year. I am very excited that our school will be featured." - *Kristen Percy, School Social Worker, Selma Elementary School*

## Weekly Q&A

### QUESTION

How does the new USDA Policy Memorandum on *Flexibility in the Meat/Meat Alternate and Grain Maximums for School Year 2012- 2013* affect offer vs. serve (OVS) at lunch?

### ANSWER

This memorandum does not change the procedures of meals provided using the OVS provision.

In the National School Lunch Program, schools must offer 5 food components (milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, meats/meat alternates). Students are allowed to decline 2 of the 5 required food components, but

must select at least ½ cup of either a fruit or vegetable. This first ½ cup of fruit or vegetable is the only partial component allowed to count towards the OVS meal requirements. Students must select all of the other food components needed to satisfy the minimum meal requirements in the entire quantities planned for the daily menu. For example, if the grain component for the day's menu is planned for 2.25 oz eq, the student must select this entire planned grain component in order to count the grain towards the OVS meal. Likewise, if ½ cup of the vegetable component is selected as the partial component, the fruit component must be selected in the full planned amount for the daily meal pattern (i.e., 1 cup at grades 9-12 and ½ cup at grades K-8) if the fruit will be credited towards the OVS meal.

Remember, while the weekly maximums are no longer in effect for the 2012-13 school year, the menu must still offer at least the daily and weekly minimum amounts required by the meal pattern for the specific grade group.

Reference: *USDA Policy Memorandum SP11-2013 REVISED, December 20, 2012*

## Vacancy Announcements

The following SFAs have openings for Child Nutrition personnel. Please review the attached corresponding vacancy announcements for further details and application instructions on any position that may be of interest to you.

SFA	Position Title	Contact
Craven County	Child Nutrition Supervisor	Questions related to this position should be emailed to <b>Gretchen Wilson</b> , Director of Child Nutrition Services at <a href="mailto:gretchen.wilson@craven.k12.nc.us">gretchen.wilson@craven.k12.nc.us</a>
Caldwell County	Child Nutrition Supervisor	Questions related to this position should be emailed to <b>Guy Garner</b> , Director of Child Nutrition Program at <a href="mailto:ggarner@caldwellschools.com">ggarner@caldwellschools.com</a>
Winston-Salem/Forsyth	Operations Manager	--

(3) Attachments:

- **craven-cnsupvr.pdf**
- **caldwell-cnsupvr.pdf**
- **ws-f operations mgr.doc**

## Mark Your Calendar

February 1 .....On-site Reviews Due (LEAs)  
\*\*February 10 (Sunday) .....Deadline for submitting January Claim for Reimbursement  
February 15 (Friday) .....Deadline for January Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement  
March 1 .....Deadline for submitting Verification Summary Report  
\*\*March 10 (Sunday) .....Deadline for submitting February Claim for Reimbursement  
March 15 (Friday) .....Deadline for February Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement

**\*\* REMEMBER** – Anytime the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend the actual due date for the claim for reimbursement is the next business day which is usually Monday. In the event that the following Monday is a holiday then the due date moves to the next business day. Also remember, the CN Technology system is programmed to flag any claim for reimbursement that is submitted after the 10<sup>th</sup> with the “10 day” error message (Error Code 1401). The NCDPI Child Nutrition section and the Claims section are fully aware of this and the Claims department will automatically override that error message for any claims submitted in this time period. It is not necessary to contact the Child Nutrition office when you receive the error message in this situation. However, if a claim reimbursement is submitted after the 10<sup>th</sup> for any other reason, you must contact us. **NOTE:** This also applies to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for which the claim for reimbursement is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.